Scott. II-27.-40,000—20-12.

(193 D) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 1304 (8-S)

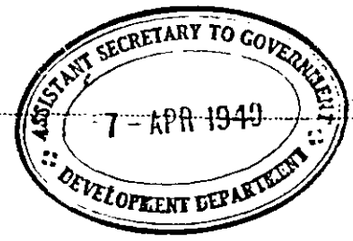
Dated 4. 6. 40

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lease — land for Cardamom cultivation —

Bettigiri rangans — Kollegal Division

Forest DEPARTMENT.



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Subject.

Lease - land for cardamom cultivation - Billigirirangans - Kollegal Division.

ENCLOSURES.
No. Copy of Coimbatore Conservator's letter.
Spare copies ....

3 Nunnels

Refce No. 6215/38-D1

Station Chepauk, Madras, *Dated the* 3rd April 1940

From (Name) C.C.Wilson Esq., I.F.S.,
(Designation) Chief Conservator of Forests.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
DEVELOPMENT Department.

Sir,

+1-42 of (V)
5
67-14 infra
1 #
76-18 infra
Λ
25-30 infra

Reference:-G.O.Ms.280 Development dated the 5th February 1940.

(1) Petition from the villagers of Maduvanahalli, Doddinduvadi etc. dated the 2nd March 1940.
#
(2) The President, Vice-President, Taluk Congress Committee, dated the 6th March 1940 and
Λ
(3) The ryots of Kollegal and Siddayyanapuram villages dated the 1st March 1940

I submit herewith three memorials from (1) the villagers of Madduvanahalli, Doddinduvadi, Chickinduvadi, Gundegal, Palayam and Hondarabalu villages, of

Kollegal Taluk, dated the 2nd March 1940,

(ii) The President and Vice President of the Taluk Congress Committee, dated the 6th March 1940, and

(iii) the ryots of Kollegal and Siddayanapuram villages dated the 1st March 1940, of Kollegal District protesting against Government's decision to permit the planting of cardamoms in the evergreen forests of the Billigirirangans.

2. This matter has been discussed at very great length for several years and every aspect of the case has been considered.

I am of opinion that the real reason for the objection to the grant of this land is a long standing dislike of the Morris family, who had the enterprise many years ago to open up this part of the country with coffee plantations and make it productive. The memorials all contain misstatements and exaggerations of fact. I will not go into them in detail but I will once again emphasise the main points.

(i) The wording of the memorials is so framed as to suggest that the evergreen forest concerned is to be clear felled in order to plant cardamoms. Once again I must invite Government's attention to the fact that for cardamoms to thrive it is essential that they should grow under heavy shade; none of the high forest in an area to be planted with cardamoms should be felled and not all of even the lower storey. The undergrowth has to be cleared, but this is quickly replaced by the cardamom crop which generally, and in the Billigirirangans always so far as I have seen, covers the ground more effectively than did the original natural undergrowth. It is therefore clear that to cultivate cardamoms in these shola forests under the conditions laid down can have no ill effect on the water supply in the Gundal river; in fact, I am of opinion that it may well improve it.

(ii) Much is made of the statement which has often been

repeated, that of late years, the water available in the Gundal river has diminished, and with it the amount of wet cultivation in Kollegal taluk has also decreased. I believe that the water in the Gundal river has diminished to some extent in the past 20 to 30 years, but I am confident that this is due to the terrible and wilful destruction of the forest, many miles lower down the valley, than in the evergreen forest now under reference. This forest is deciduous and has been burnt, intentionally and most obstinately, year after year by the local graziers, in order to get a fresh crop of green grass for their cattle. When I was inspecting these forests, in person, a few months ago, I was most struck by the devastation that had been caused. In South India a forest fire rarely extends to the crowns of the trees; it usually runs through the grass and dry undergrowth, and gradually, over a period of years, kills out the tree growth by the repeated scorching of the lower part of the tree. In the Gundal Valley, however, fires that occurred, even this year, extended right up into the crowns of hundreds of the trees and killed them outright; in my 30 years experience of the forests of India I have not seen such devastation as this caused by fire. And similar fires occur frequently, if not annually, in this locality. The result is that the forest is destroyed and is replaced by a high dense growth of grass, the numerous side streams that run into the Gundal river dry up very early in the year and much of the rain that falls on the hill sides evaporates before it reaches these little side streams. If there is any diminution in the flow of water in the Gundal river of recent years, I have no doubt that it is on account of this destruction of the forest by fire on the banks of the lower reaches of the river and is not due to the cultivation of coffee

and cardamoms right up at the top of the valley.

Cultivation with cardamoms has so far been undertaken only on a very small experimental scale in this area, and could not have had any effect at all, good or bad, on the water supply. The opening up of the country round Bellaji and Honnametti with coffee was completed many years ago, and though this original cultivation may very well have had some temporary ill effect on the water-flow, when it was first planted, nevertheless since the coffee has matured, and the heavy shade planted over it has closed up, the water supply from the hill sides covered with this crop must be very nearly as good as it originally was when the land was under shola forest.

(iii) In regard to the argument that the land under wet cultivation has diminished of recent years I would invite the attention of Government to paragraphs 2 and 3 of my previous letter No.6215/38-D1, dated the 17th November 1939 on this subject and to the two statements I then submitted, which show that there has not been a diminution in the land under wet cultivation in a normal year, though in years of exceptional drought there has been considerable variation, but that such years are distributed irregularly throughout the period that has been reviewed.

(iv) Further I believe I am right in saying that the Hebhalla channel, running from the North West side of the hills, has recently been completed and that it feeds the tanks of Kollegal with an ample supply of water, so that they are no longer wholly dependent upon the Gundal river.

3. I enclose a copy of a letter from the Conservator of Forests Coimbatore Circle on this matter which he has sent to me with the petitions under review, and in which he appears now to be doubtful of the advisability of allowing the cultivation of cardamoms on the scale decided upon by Government. He is,

in my opinion, making a mistake in considering that the cardamom planting under consideration is likely to have any ill effect on the water supply in the Gundal river; and from the wording of his letter I get the impression that he is not aware of the alternative supply of water from the Hebhalla referred to in my paragraph 2 (iv) above. I was District Forest Officer in Kollegal as long ago as 1911, and controlled the preparation of the working plan for the district in 1930-32 and have repeatedly visited the forest since. As I have stated already in my letter No.6215/38-D1 dated the 17th November 1939 I consider that properly planted and tended cardamom crop growing under the shade of an evergreen high forest will afford not as good a cover to the soil but a better cover than does the original evergreen undergrowth, and I am quite confident that, provided the estate is properly managed, there will not be any ill effect on the water flow.

4. The Forest Department now controls large areas of similar forest planted with this crop in many districts throughout the presidency and we know exactly how they should be managed, and it is the District Forest Officer's special duty to watch what the cardamom lessees are doing and to see that they do not break the conditions of their leases, which are carefully drawn up and must be strictly enforced.

5. All these three memorials obviously emanate from the same source, though they are signed by different people, and I have no doubt that the originator is the Vice President of the Congress Committee who, at my invitation, accompanied me in an inspection of the area

last June. During the course of this inspection I showed him exactly what was going to be done and what the result would be. I also showed him cardamoms growing in the shola forest under correct conditions and compared them with natural undergrowth in an immediately adjoining locality and he was unable to produce any reasonable argument against the extension of the cultivation, though at the same time, he refused to withdraw his opposition to the lease of the land proposed.

6. I recommend that the memorials be rejected and that the cultivation of cardamoms in these forests be encouraged, in accordance with the decision that Government have come to, and the orders they have issued, in their No.280 dated the 5th February 1940, after prolonged deliberation, and after considering every aspect of the matter.

7. I would also emphasise the fact that if the present year is not to be lost the cultivation of the cardamoms ought to start immediately and I am therefore instructing the Conservator of Forests to proceed at once with the auction of the land as ordered by Government in the G.O. quoted above.

Pp 41-42 30

P. Clarkson
4440
Chief Conservator of Forests.
6
4/4.

DKS/3.4.

Letter R.O.C.No.1331/38-A.1. dated the 20th March 1940 from the Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore, to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras.

Subject: Lease - Cardamom cultivation - Kollegal Division.

Reference: Your No.6215/38-D.1. dated 8-2-1940.

I have forwarded to you separately today three petitions addressed to the Adviser to His Excellency the Governor protesting against the leasing of land in the Gundal catchment area in the Kollegal division for cardamom cultivation.

Although the case presented in the petitions is much damaged by overstatement I consider that there are good grounds for a reconsideration of the orders recently passed by Government on this matter.

The question turns on whether an evergreen forest in which cardamom cultivation is allowed under proper safeguards is as good cover in a catchment area as the undisturbed evergreen forest. The answer can only be an expression of opinion. My own view is that it is nearly as good, and that where only a small proportion of the valuable part of the catchment area is cultivated with cardamoms, for a limited period, the effect on stream flow will be inappreciable.

But the case of the Gundal stream is special. It is a small perennial stream, almost the only one in a large country-side, and the flow undoubtedly is precarious. The upper catchment is where the only moderately heavy rainfall occurs, and every bit of shola here is important. The area of about 400 acres which it is now proposed to lease for cardamoms is quite a considerable proportion of the Shola area in this

catch-

catchment. Although I do not think that disastrous or even very noticeable effects would follow the -- leasing of this area, I believe that there is a chanc that this would happen; and with such a precarious supply I do not think the chance ought to be taken.

OFFICE OF C... OF FORESTS
1331/1944
12 MAR 1940
COIMB... CIRCLE

To

The Adviser to His Excellency
The Governor of Madras,
Fort St George,
Madras.

DISTRICT FOREST OFFICE
5 MAR 1940
KOLLEGAL

CHIEF CONSERV... OF FORESTS
29 ... 40
MADRAS

Thro'

The District Forest Officer,
D. I
Kollegal

The humble petition of the ryots of Maduvanahalli, Doddiwadi, Chickindiwadi, Gundegal, Palayam and Hondarabalu villages of Kollegal taluk in the district of Coimbatore begs to submit as follows:-

2. It is stipulated that lands in the Gundal valley are to be sold in public auction for the cultivation of cardamoms. Mr. Morris has on several occasions applied for grant of this patch of forest for cultivation, it was first, of oranges, now, it is said, of cardamoms.

3. Time was when the bed of the Gundal valley now covered by the present cardamom and Coffee plantation of Mr. Morris was a lake where even the mid-day sun could not penetrate. It was an underground reservoir of rain water to ooze out in continuous seepage to feed the Gundal river. It was till the birth of the said estate a perennial river. It has an

an irrigable ayacut of over 5000 acres distributed in sixteen villages giving them occupation and food.

4. For a single village Madhuvanahalli has the largest directly irrigated ayacut under the Gundal stream. The village depends entirely on its paddy fields on the growing clearances of the dense forest growth in the region of the Gundal for extending the coffee and cardamom plantations the sholas disappeared and with it the seepage into the Gundal. The direct and dire consequence of such forest clearance for cultivation is the transformation of the Gundal from a perennial stream of respectable proportions into a jungle stream appearing and disappearing with the rains. This change in the character of the Gundal consequent on the coffee and cardamom estate of Mr Morris has frequently resulted in failure of crop in paddy wet fields with misery to the people and loss of revenue to government

5. When in connexion with Mr. Morris's application for grant of land for orange cultivation in the Gundal valley the Hon'ble the Minister for forests and agriculture visited this taluk a few months ago he was pleased to inspect the locality and to hear the objections of the ryots

in the matter. He was convinced that any cultivation in the Gundal valley is bound to reduce the supply in the Gundal and affect the riparian interests of the wet fields irrigated by the Gundal.

6. Evidently Mr. Morris has been availing of the absence of the Congress Ministry and trying to turn it to good account.

7. There can be no two opinions on the effects of clearance in the Gundal valley for cultivation or for other purpose. Such clearance is bound to reduce the supply to the Gundal and injure the time honored rights of the ryots ayacutdars below. Under the law in force such rights which are older than the British government in India cannot be ignored or interfered with. The contentment and happiness of sixteen villages should certainly weigh against the convenience or pleasure of single individuals and even against small additions to the revenues of government

8. Most of the Gundal fed irrigation tanks lie on the Kollegal - Bhavani and Kollegal - Madeswaran Hills road by the side of villages. Both the wayfarers and the lives of thousands of pilgrims to the hills and to the

villages close by they supply drinking water. The village cattle have also to turn to these tanks for their drink. To reduce supply to the Gundal by cultivating its valley is to deprive these very necessary services.

9. It is, therefore, prayed that no grant for cultivation either by sale in public auction or otherwise of lands in the Gundal valley may be made as such grant is repugnant to the riparian rights and interests of petitioners and of others holding wet lands irrigated by the Gundal. It is further prayed that immediate orders prohibiting such grant may be passed at once

10 Wherefore that the happiness and contentment of the thousands of people affected thereby may be secured. Attention is solicited to the joint memorandum of objections submitted to government by the president and the Vice President of the Telugu Congress Committee, Kollegal during the Congress meeting on this very subject.

10 Correspondence on this subject may be kindly addressed to Sri. B. N. Prasad Rao, Rajid

land-holder and President,
Panchayat Board, Madhuranthakam
Taluq.

2nd March 1940.

3/3/40

R.O.C 412-40-A.

Submitted to the Conservator of For[illegible]
Coimbatore Circle, Coimbatore.

2. I invite your attention to G.O. No. Ms 280 Development, dated 5-2-40, communicated with your R.O. No. 1331-38-AI, dated 16.2.40.

[illegible] -3-40

District Forest Office
Kollegal.

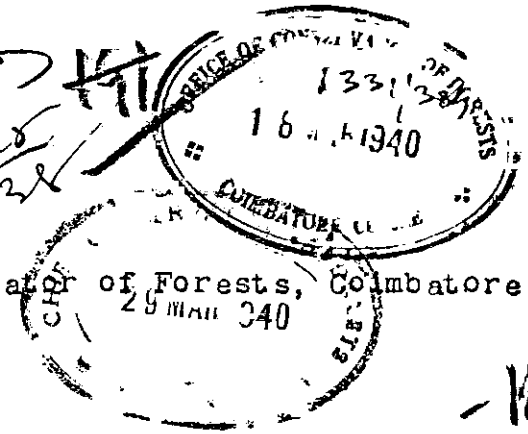
DESPATCHED
9-MAR 1940

Forwarded (through the Chief Conservator of Forests)
I have expressed my views on this matter in my 1331 dated 20.3.40 to the Chief Conservator.

Conservator of Forests

13/3/40

R.O.C. No. 412/-A-40.



Submitted to the Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle, Coimbatore.

2) I invite your attention to G.O. No. Ms. 280, Dev., Department, dated 5-2-40, communicated with your R.O.C. No. 1331/38-A-1, dated 16-2-1940.

Forwarded (through the Circle Conservator of Forests.) I have expressed my views on the matter in my 1331/38 dated 12.3.40 to the Chief Conservator

Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle

Dt. Forest Officer, Kollegal

DESPATCHED
16 MAR 1940

9-3-40

Kollegal,

6th March 1940.

From

Sri T.S.Gopalaswami Iyer,

President,

AND

Sri S.Manjundayya,

Vice-President,

Taluk Congress Committee,

Kollegal.

The Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Madras,

Fort St.George, Madras.

Thro'

The District Forest Officer,

Kollegal.

Sir,

REF: Notice dated 29-2-40 of the District Forest Officer, Kollegal, regarding Cardamom cultivation lease sales - Gundal valley - Kollegal Forest Division.

It will be recalled that the lease of the said lands came up for consideration about nine months back and that at the invitation of the Chief Conservator of Forests we inspected the locality in his company on 15-6-1939. The Conservator and the District Forest Officer were with us during the inspection. On behalf of the people we discussed the subject on the spot and explained to Mr.Wilson, the Chief Conservator of Forests why the grant should not be made. On 16-6-39 we sent in our memorandum of objections to the Chief Conservator and to the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Agriculture. Herewith is an a copy for your kind perusal. To see no reason to change our view. The passage of time lends confirmation and vigor to that view. Any body that has

has a hand should be able to see that disforestation in the Sholas of the Gundal valley would wipe out the subsoil reservoir of rainwater at the source of the Gundal and considerably cripple its irrigable capacity. And he that has a heart cannot but feel what the practical drying up of a river that irrigates over 5000 acres feeding and giving occupation to nearly a score and a half of villages means to those villages. The irrigation map of Kollegal should show that the Gundal feed irrigation tanks lying as they do by villages including the town of Kollegal and on the high way from Kollegal to Bhavani, Kollegal to Madeswaranmalai supply drinking water not merely to those villages and their cattle but also to the way farers and tens of thousands of pilgrims to the Madeswaran hills. Crippling the Gundal as certainly disforestation for cultivation in the Gundal valley will bring about is bound to disable these tanks from rendering these valuable services. As we are penning these lines we see the wistful glances of the weary way and thirsting ~~glances of the very worried~~ pilgrims in their multitudes being vainly cast at the dried tank beds. This is the fruit of cultivation on hills in river valleys. Considerations of duty and humanity should drive the Government to the only course of putting an end once and for all to grant of lands in the Gundal valley and to seek methods - the speedier, the better - of removing the present coffee and cardamom plantations of Mr.Morris.

2. It will be recalled that the Hon'ble Minister visited the locality in person, saw things for himself, heard objections in person and was pleased to hold against any grant of lands in the Gundal valley. The present notification of sale is against the considered opinion and order of the popular government.

3. In the interests of justice and good

good government we feel constrained to issue a note of warning against trespassing on the acknowledged and ancient riparian rights of people. A more effective or speedier method of subverting the agricultural economy of a taluk and driving it into dire poverty could not have been thought of. It is bound to have among the people discontent of a character and magnitude that is hardly foreseeable and that naturally follows from a course which knocks off their bread from their mouths. We strongly urge that the proposed lease of lands in the Gundal valley for cultivation may be prohibited at once. The strength of a government lies in the happiness and contentment of the people.

ours truly,

K. Balakrishnan

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.
Copy to the Adviser to H.E.The Governor of Madras.

27

K O L L E G A L,

13th June 1939.

Copy of the letter P/33-43 of [illegible]

From

Sri T.S.Gopalaswamy Ayyar,

President, Taluk Congress Committee,

Sri. S. Nanjundiah, vice-president — D. —

K o l l e g a l,

Coimbatore District.

To

The Hon'ble The Minister for Agriculture & Forests,

Government of Madras, Fort.St.George,

M a d r a s.

S i r,

On invitation we inspected the Gundal valley with the Chief Conservator of Forests on 15-6-39. The Conservator and the District Forest Officer, Kollegal were present. Parts of the coffee and cardamon plantations were shown to us. The Main Gundal and the Kiru Gundal were also seen. In the cultivated virgin parts of the forest there is such luxuriant and thick growth that the Sun is not to be seen even at midday. It is all darkness. The cultivated area presents a different look. All undergrowth has been cleared. To regulate the density of ~~the~~ shade and to privide room for the coffee and cardamon plants, trees have been cut. The difference is marked. Due to exposure to the sun and air and with no undergrowth to retain the moisture or keep the soil cultivation ~~xixx~~ has ~~been~~ considerably reduced the humidity in the soil and helped erosion. It is nothing unnatural in mountain slopes bare of vegetation. Mr.Wilson was at pains to prove the contrary. His arguments were however unconvincing. The virgin forest by the side gives the lig~~ht~~e to them. The seepage into the Gundal is much larger and steadier here. than in the cultivated slopes. The pools, natural and artificial in the cultivated area and in that without it

it should bear out this observation. These coffee and cardamom plantations are in the Gundal valley, in the catchment area of the stream and have in no small measure reduced its supply. A podu which is a patch of some 5 acres or less in the reserved forests cultivated by the hill tribes - the Soligas - was shown to us to prove how when they are abandoned they develop grass - a combustible material - affording chances of forest fire leading to destruction of the neighbouring forests. Forest fires cannot be too strongly condemned and ought no doubt to be guarded against and prevented. The importance of grassy plots - store houses of cattle fodder - in the agricultural economy of an agricultural and cattle breeding taluk like Kollegal cannot, however, be lost sight of. The Chief Conservator told us that he had suggested the attachment of a condition to such podu cultivation requiring the Sholiga cultivator to see that trees are raised in the cultivated area before he abandons it. It is a reparative and protective method worth trial particularly when it costs nothing to Government. But when he attempts, as he did to make out a case thereby for granting for purposes of cultivation - it may be of fruit trees - an extent of what appeared to be some 400 acres of dense virgin forest in the catchment area of the Gundal, the main and the most ancient source of irrigation in Kollegal Taluk - affecting the fortunes of over a dozen villages with a population of about twenty thousand, the matter assumes an aspect wholly different from what it appears to be on the surface and is fraught with grave consequences. Restoring the podus to their original sylvan richness is one thing and the granting for cultivation of large tracts of dense virgin forests in the catchment area of the main source of irrigation in the taluk quite another. Each conflicts with the other. After all from what we have been able to gather, the podus are scattered about numbering about

about a dozen or more with a total approximate extent of negligible dimensions. The Chief Conservator's suggestion to impose a condition to raise trees in the podus before relinquishment is one method of restoration. Lying as they do in the catchment area of the Gundal they should be restored to their original state. Another method would be to enclose the patches against human intrusion for a few years when nature will do the work of restoration. We are unable to believe that the existing Forest staff in Kollegal cannot do it as part of their current duties of forest protection. If a Department of Government cannot do this it is difficult to believe, as the Chief Conservator would have us do that Mr.Morris of the Attikan Estate - a private individual - can. After all the aggregate area of the podus is small and microscopically small in comparison with the area proposed to be granted to Mr.Morris for orange cultivation. Its restoration or protection cannot justify this large grant.

2. As stated earlier the coffee and cardamom cultivation at the source and in the catchment area of the Gundal stream has converted it from a perennial into a jungle stream appearing with the rain and disappearing with it. Its volume and constancy has been considerably cut down. with the result that with the growth of the Honnametti Estate the wet lands down in the plains of Kollegal irrigated by the Gundal have continued to suffer from growing shortage of water entailing heavy loss to the riot in crops and to the Government in large remissions of land revenue. Such failures and remissions as the revenue accounts from 1926 onwards should show have become an annual visitation. What huge losses of food crop like paddy year after year for over a decade mean has to be borne in mind whenever the question of the grant for cultivation of any extent, however small, of land in the catchment area of the Gundal comes up for

for consideration. Cultivation of any crop in a Shola like that in the Gundal valley is the clearence of large forests which constitute natures hidden reservoir of water to quicken the thirsting lands in the plains into smiling plenty. The clearence of such forests is nothing short of tarpedoeing the subsoil reservoir out of existance starving the fields below. We are told that oranges are to be cultivated in those Sholas. It means the clearence of the undergrowth and of the huge trees to admit sunlight. We do not know whether any condition against cutting of trees for cardamom cultivation was inserted in the original grant leasing the land for such cultivation. We presume that such a speculation existed. However that may be, the fact is visible that many trees have been cut in those plantations resulting in shrinkage of subsoil water and consequently of seepage into the Gundal with the disastrous results referred to here above. This should warn one against any future grant in the Gundal basin. The wet ayacut in the Gundal is older than the British Government here and no rights to their prejudice can be created in favour of any individual. The argument of the Chief Conservator that it would yield a revenue of some twenty five thousand rupees lacks in force against the fact that the existing coffee and cardamom plantations have already reduced the irrigation capacity of the Gundal and the promised or expected income from orange cultivation is but a small fraction of the land revenue remission for failure of paddy crop granted year after year from 1926 to date not to speak of the loss to the riot in food grains and fodder over a wide area. No cultivation of any kind in the Gundal basin adding as it certainly does to the reduction in the irrigable capacity of the Gundal can be permitted with any regard to the happiness and contentment of thousands of families dependent on lands irrigated by the Gundal. The plea of protection is anything but real. Public interests will

will be seen to demand the reduction, gradual if necessary, of the existing plantations and their shifting to regions beyond the Gundal catchment area or the catchment area of the Ududarai Halla which it is under the consideration of Government to harness for irrigation. Any experiments in fruit cultivation in high altitudes such as the oranges or of coffee or cardamoms may be tried in the Madeswaran or Honnachi hills in the taluk where it is presumed no irrigation interests are likely to be marred.

3. We feel it our duty to acknowledge the frankness with which the Chief Conservator discussed the subject with us and the pains he took to show us round. The firemap that he showed did not disclose any fire in the current year or in recent years. The one to which he drew our attention referred to fires some years back in the Arepalayam Forests which borders on the Mysore State - the Kelamdur Jaghir forest.- So far as can be seen, forest fires have been on the decline from year to year as the riot has begun to appreciate the value of forests. Fire protection cannot justify any garnt for cultivation of lands in the Gundal basin.

4. We remember the question of such a grant came up for consideration some years back and the grant was condemned for its assuredly deleterious effects on irrigation. We should not be surprised if the Forest officer who disapproved of the grant should be found to be, Mr.Wilson, now Chief Conservator. We believe there is a file on this matter in the office of the District Forest Officer, Kollegal. Those records should shed light on the question.

5. In the end we feel compelled in public interests to recommend against the grant to any one of any land in the Gundal basin for cultivation of any kind. Oranges are shrubs rather than trees and betwixt tree and

and tree they need a larger interspace bare of vegetation than either coffee or cardamoms. They can therefore be no substitutes for the tall giants that stud the Sholas in the Gundal regeions. Human cultivation of any crop involves the destruction of all other vegetable life in the area and is characterised by limitations which nature knows not. The virgin forests in the Gundal basin are beyond human creation. They should be retained in the interests of the many families inhabiting the plains below and deriving nourishment from the fields fed by the Gundal who takes her birth in and runs through those forests. Human life should always weigh against revenue. The proposed grant to a private individual for cultivation would merely convert State property into a private one. That is the fact of the matter. Such conversion ought to be easily seen to be no wise a measure of which it can in any sense be predicated. That it is sylviculturally protective unless one is prepared to ignore the calamitously deleterious effects of the horti-agricultural activities of Mr.Morris.

(SD).T.S.Gopalaswamy Iyer
(SD).S.Nanjunda Iyer.

/ True Copy /

Communicated to the Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Fort St.George, Madras for favour of kind perusal

Gopalan.

President,
Taluk Congress Committee,
Kollegal.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.
" " District Forest Officer, Kollegal.

DISTRICT FOREST OFFICE
5 MAR 1940
COIMBATORE

29 MAR 1940

1331/34
12 MAR 1940
COIMBATORE CIRCLE

39

D1

To the Address to the
Excellency the Governor of Madras,
Fort St George
Madras

Thro'

The District Forest
Officer,
Kollegal

The humble petition of the ryots holding wet lands in Kollegal and Siddayyana purasa villages of Kollegal Taluk in the district of Coimbatore begs to submit as follows:

2. Petitioners' are all wet villages with rice fields. Rice is the staple food of the people and this is the principal crop these lands grow. Failure of rice crop in these villages means starvation and famine for both man and beast.

3. The said lands are irrigated by the Gundal stream. The Gundal takes its birth in the Doddatampigè forest. From time immemorial it has been a perennial stream feeding over 5000 acres of rice-fields

giving subsistence and occupation to sixteen villages. But since the rise and growth of the Hommanetti and Attikan estates of Mr. Morris in the Gundal valley the stream has been dwindling till it is now become only a jungle stream with a current during rains and a bare dry bed at other times. The series of failures of rice crops in the Gundal fed area for several years past should open the eyes of government and of all those interested in the well-being of the aforesaid sixteen villages to the gravity of the situation brought about by the cultivation of the Gundal valley

4. When a few months ago Mr Morris applied for grant of lands in the Gundal valley for cultivation of oranges the ryots of the taluk represented a case of warning to government. The result was that the president and the Vice president of the Taluk Congress Committee, Kalingal on behalf

of the people visited the forest area in question with the Chief Conservator of forests and explained to him how the deforestation of and Cultivation in the sholas of the Gundal valley came to result particularly in the gradual drying up of the Gundal river to the prejudice and ruination of several thousand ryots.

5. The Hon'ble Minister for forests and agriculture was pleased to visit the place personally and to hear the ryots in the matter. Representations were also made to him in public meetings in several places to the effect that any Cultivation in the Gundal valley is bound to affect prejudicially the interests of the rice-fields fed by the Gundal, that no grant of land in that valley for Cultivation of any kind should be made and that the existing Cultivation should be stopped. The Hon'ble Minister was convinced of the justice of the ryots' Contention and was pleased to grant it.

Within a week learnt that on the recommendation of

of the Morro vis Lands in the Gundal valley are to be cutup in plots and sold in public auction for the Cultivation of Cardamoms. Mr. Morris tries to profit by the absence of the Congress Ministry.

7. It should be borne in mind that the Gundal watan which is an ancient wet area much older than the British government in India. These riparian rights cannot in the face of the existing law on the subject be trodden down without dire Consequences of a far reaching nature. No grant of any land can be made as it prejudices these ancient rights. The joint memorandum of objections by the president and the Vice president of the Taluk Congress Committee, Kollegal submitted to government during the Congress ministry may be kindly perused.

8. Petitioners therefore, pray that government may be pleased to prohibit the grant on any pretext of any land in the Gundal valley for purposes

area may be entered in the prohibited list.

9. Correspondence on the subject may be kindly addressed to Sri. D. V. Ridriah, Candidate to Legal

1. 3. 1940

N. M. Nanjundaiah

K. V. Gopindappaiah

1. 3. 40

B. Ramachandra

P. Ramaswamy

B. R. Jayaram

K. V. Gopindappaiah

Chinnaiah

A. M. Chandrasekhar

G. Ramaiah

Gadi Chandiah

A. L. Venkatappaiah

A. M. Chinnadadaiah

P. V. Venkatesaiah

G. Prabhuswamy

G. Reddy
2-3-40

[illegible]
E.K. Ramaiah
J. J. Le Fleming
B. Basappa.
D. Krishna Setty
Subbiah
[illegible]
Bhariappa
[illegible]
[illegible]

R.O.C 412-40-A.

Submitted to the Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle, Coimbatore

2. I invite your attention to G.O. No. Ms 280 Development, dated 6.2.40, communicating your R.O.C. No. 1331-38-A I, dated 16-2-40.

[signature]
3-4-40
District Forest Officer
Kollegal

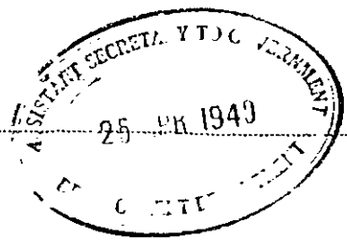
DESPATCHED
9-MAR 1940

Forwarded (through the Chief Conservator of Forests, I have expressed my views on the matter in my No. dated 20.3.40 to the Chief Conservator of Forests

[signature]
20-3-40
Conservator of Forests
Coimbatore Circle

T.

FOREST **DEPARTMENT.**



Received 25 APR 1940 19 *Registered* 11681 19
25.4.40 (For delay please see (K)).

Subject.

Leases - Cardamom cultivation - Kollegal division.

Enclosures.
No.
Spare copies

Ref. No. 6215/38-D1.

Station Chepauk, Madras, *Dated the* 23rd April 1940

From (Name) W.G. Dyson Esq., I.F.S.,
(Designation) Chief Conservator of Forests.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Development Department

Sir,

The Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle reports that in response to the advertisement inviting applications for leases of land for cardamom cultivation in the Kollegal division only one application has been received. This is from Mr. R.C. Morris who applies for all the blocks in the whole area of about 375 acres.

In my letter R.O.C. 1331-38-A1, dated the 20th March 1940 (as Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle) I explained why I am opposed to the leasing of this land.

Mr. Wilson, who disagreed with me, submitted to Government a copy of my letter as an enclosure to his Ref. No. 6215/38-D1 dated the 3rd April 1940.

3 If it is the intention of the Government to proceed with this matter it will, I presume, be necessary to fix a premium to be paid by the lessee - in addition to the rent - as, in the circumstances, an auction is out of the question. Proposals on this point will be submitted, if necessary, on receipt of the Government's orders on the petitions forwarded with Mr. Wilson's letter Ref. No. 6215/38-D1, dated the 3rd April 1940.

24.4.40

For Chief, Conservator.

K.F.N/24-4.

24/4/40.

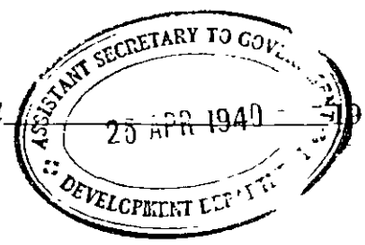
24/4/40.

21 APR 1940

C.F. 31—12,006—28-11-...

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT No.



Received 25 APR 1940 19

Registered 11687-I 19
25.4.'40 (for files)
Please see (P)...

Subject.

Forests - (Coimbatore) - Kollegal and North Coimbatore Forest Divisions - Lease - Cardamom cultivation - Objection petitions from the ryots

Station. Madras, *Dated the* 19th April 1940.

From S.Venkateswaran, Esquire, I.C.S.,

Secretary,

Board of Revenue.

C.A.Henderson. Esquire, C.S.I., V.D., I.C.S., Commissioner of Land Revenue and Irrigation.

Read the following papers:-

Pp 41-42 (V) G.O.No.Misc.,280 Development Department, dated the 5th February 1940.

II
Letter from D.D.Warren, Esquire, M.C., I.C.S., Collector of Coimbatore, Refce.No.1002/40 dated the 19th March 1940.

Pp 41-42 (V) Refce.- G.O.Misc., No.280 Development dated the 5th February 1940.

In the Government Order quoted above, the Government Pp 41-42 (V) sanctioned the lease of an area of 400 acres of forest land in the Kollegal division for Cardamom cultivation. In pursuance of the Government Order, the District Forest Officer, Kollegal, published a notice inviting applications for the lease of the land. On the publication of the notice, the residents of the Kollegal taluk have sent three objection petitions addressed to the Advisor to His Excellency the Governor of Madras. The objection raised against the proposed lease of lands is that the lease will result in the diminution

dimunition of supply in the Gundal stream. I submit that the Chief Conservator's report Refce.No.6215/38-D.1 dated the 17th November 1939 to the Government dealt in detail with the objection raised and the objection had already been considered by the Government before orders were passed by them. The three petitions are enclosed.

Pp1-4 of (V)

(X) Pp53-85

-:-

REFERENCE.

Submitted to the Government for orders.

2. The objections now preferred by the ryots were already considered by the Government before they issued their Order dated the 5th February 1940 cited above, sanctioning the lease.

Ir 83 40 (V)

for Secretary.

To the Secretary to the Government, Development Department, with three petitions (in original).

Pp53-85-Nifia

c.n.n./20-4-1940.

97

Same as in petition
for M 9-17 Sept.

To

The Adviser to the
His Excellency the Governor of Madras
Fort St George
Madras

cc 2) 6/6
in 93 40
SD
9 3540

Thro'

The Collector
of
Coembatore.

The humble petition of the ryots of Madumanahalli Doddindwadi, Chikkindwadi Gundegal, Palayam and Hondarabalu villages of Kollegal taluk in the district of Coimbatore begs to submit as follows:

2. It is notified that lands in the Gundal valley are to be sold in public auction for the Cultivation of Cardamoms. Mr. Morris has on several occasions applied for grant of this part of the forest for cultivation, it was first, of oranges; now, it is said, for Cardamoms.

3. Time was when the part of the Gundal valley now covered by the present Cardamom and Coffee plantations of Mr. Morris were - sholas where even the midday sun could not penetrate. It was an underground reservoir of rain water to ooze out in Continuous seepage to feed the Gundal river. It was till the birth of the said estate a perennial river. It has an irrigable ayacut of over 5000 acres distributed in sixteen villages giving them occupation and food.

For a single village Maduvanahalli has the largest directly irrigated ayacut under the Gundal stream. The village depends entirely on its paddy fields. With the growing clearance of the dense forest growth in the region of the Gundal for extending the Coffee and Cardamom plantations the sholas disappeared and with it the seepage into the Gundal. The direct and dire consequence of such forest clearance for cultivation is the transformation of the Gundal from a perennial stream of reasonable proportions into a jungle stream appearing and disappearing with the rains. This change in the character of the Gundal consequent

on the Coffee and Cardamom estate of Mr. morris has frequently resulted in failure of crop in petitioners' wet fields with misery to the people and loss of revenue to government

5. When in connexion with Mr. Mor... application for grant of land for orange cultivation in the Gundal valley the Honble the Mem - for forests and agriculture visited this taluk a few months ago he was pleased to inspect the locality and to hear the objections of the ryots in the matter. He was convinced that any cultivation in the Gundal valley is bound to reduce the supply in the Gundal and affect the riparian interests of the wet fields irrigated by the Gundal.

6. Ev...ently Mr morris has been awaiting of the absence of the Congress ministry and trying to push his good account.

7. There Can be no two opinions on the effect of clearance in the Gundal valley for cultivation or for other purpose. Such clearance is bound to reduce the supply to the Gundal and injure the time honored rights of the wet agriculturists below. Under the Law in force such rights which are older than the British government in India Cannot be ignored or interfered with. The discontentment and unhappiness of sixteen villages should certainly weigh against

the convenience or pleasure of single individuals and even against small additions to the revenues of government.

8. Most of the Gundal fed irrigation tanks lie on the Kollegal - Mysore and Kollegal - Madeswaran hills road by the side of villages. Both to the wayfarers and the tens of thousands of pilgrims to the hills and to the villages close by they supply drinking water. The village cattle have also to turn to these tanks for their drink. To reduce supply to the Gundal by cultivating its valley is to deprive these very necessary services.

9. It is, therefore, prayed that no grant for cultivation either by sale in public auction or otherwise of lands in the Gundal valley may be made as such grant is inimical to the riparian rights and interests of petitioners and others holding wet lands irrigated by the Gundal. It is further prayed that immediate orders forbidding such grant may be passed at once in order that the happiness and contentment of the thousands of people affected thereby may be secured. Attention is solicited to the joint memorandum of objections submitted to government by the president and the vice president of the Taluk Congress Committee, Kollegal, during the Congress ministry on this very subject.

In Correspondence on this
subject may be kindly addressed to
Sri. B. N. Arasachetty, Candidate
and President Panchayat Board
Madhuramahalle

2nd March 1940.

To Regd.
Sri. B. Arasachetty

Chikkarayappa

[illegible]

M Basavalingappa

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

63 13

37

Same as a petition
of H 39-47 supra

J.

To

His Excellency the Governor of
Madras
Fort St George
Madras

The humble petition
of the ryots holding wet lands
in Kollegal and Siddarajanapura
villages of Kollegal taluk in the
district of Coimbatore begs to
submit as follows

2. Petitioners ---
all wet villages with rice fields
Rice is the staple food of the people
and this is the Crop that these lands
grow. Failure of rice Crop in these
villages means starvation and
famine for both man and beast

The said lands are
--- watered by the Gundal stream
The Gundal takes its birth in the
wood at Sampigai forest. From
time immemorial it has been
a perennial stream flowing over
5000 acres of rice-fields

giving occupation and subsistence to sixteen villages. But since the rise and growth of the Honna Betti and Attikkan Estates of Mr. Morris in the Gundal valley the stream has been dwindling till it is now become only a jungle stream with a current during rains and a bare dry bed at others. The series of failures of rice crops in the Gundalfad area for several years past should open the eyes of government and of all those interested in the well-being of the sixteen aforesaid villages to the gravity of the situation brought about by the cultivation of the Gundal valley.

4. When a few months ago Mr. Morris applied for grant of lands in the Gundal valley for

for Cultivation of oranges
the ryots of the Taluk repeated
a note of warning to govern-
ment. The result was that the
President and the Vice-president
of the Taluk Congress Committee
Mr. Nagal on behalf of the people
visited the forest area in question
with the Chief Conservator of
Forests and explained to him
how the deforestation and Cul-
tivation in the shola of the
Gundal valley came to result
particularly in the gradual
keeping up of the Gundal river
to the prejudice and ruination
of several thousand ryots.

5. The Hon'ble Minister
for forests and agriculture
was pleased to visit the place
personally and to hear the
ryots in the matter. Representa-
tions were also made to him
in public meetings in several
places to the effect that any
Cultivation in the Gundal valley

bound to affect prejudicially the interests of the rice-fields fed by the Gundal, that no grant of land in that valley for cultivation of any kind should be made and that the existing cultivation should be stopped. The Hon'ble Minister was convinced of the justice of the ryots' Contention and was pleased to grant it.

6. It is since learnt that on the initiative of Mr. Morris the lands in the Gundal valley are to be cut up in plots and sold in public auction for the cultivation of Cardamoms. Mr. Morris tries to profit by the absence of the Congress Minister.

7. It should be born in mind that the Gundal Reservoir is an ancient work area much older than the British government in India. These riparian rights cannot in the face of the existing law on the

subject be trodden down without
dire consequences of a far reaching
nature. No grant of any land can
be made as it prejudices these
ancient rights. The joint memo-
randum of objections by the president
and the vice president of the Taluk
Congress Committee, Kollegal submitted
to government during the congress
session may be kindly perused.

8. Petitioners therefore,
pray that government may be pleased
to prohibit the grant on any
pretext of any land in the Gundal
valley for purposes of cultivation
and that the area may be entered
in the prohibited list

9. Correspondence on
this subject may be kindly addressed
to Sri D.V. Rudriah Landholder
Kollegal

1. 3. 1940

True copy submitted
to the Collector, Coimbatore
for favour of necessary and
immediate action

1. 3. 1940.

69 19

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Kollegal,

6th March 1940.

From

Sri T.S.Gopalaswami Iyer,

President,

AND

Sri S.Nanjundayya,

Vice-President,

Taluk Congress Committee,

Kollegal.

Same as Petition
or H 21-25 Scopes

To

The Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Madras,

Fort St.George, Madras.

Thro'

The District Forest Officer,

Kollegal.

Sir,

REF: Notice dated 29-2-40 of the District Forest Officer, Kollegal, regarding Cardamom cultivation lease sales - Gundal valley - Kollegal Forest Division.

It will be recalled that the lease of the said lands came up for consideration about nine months back and that at the invitation of the Chief Conservator of Forests we inspected the locality in his company on 15-6-1939. The Conservator and the District Forest Officer were with us during the inspection. On behalf of the people we discussed the subject on the spot and explained to Mr.Wilson, the Chief Conservator of Forests why the grant should not be made. On 17-6-39 we sent in our memorandum of objections to the Chief Conservator and to the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Agriculture. Herewith is a copy for your kind perusal. We see no reason to change our view. The passage of time lends confirmation and vigor to that view. Any body that has

has a heart should be able to see that disforestation in the Sholas of the Gundal valley would wipe out the subsoil reservoir of rainwater at the source of the Gundal and considerably cripple its irrigable capacity. And he that has a heart cannot but feel what the practical drying up of a river that irrigates over 5000 acres feeding and giving occupation to nearly a score and a half of villages means to those villages. The irrigation map of Kollegal should show that the Gundal feed irrigation tanks lying as they do by villages including the town of Kollegal and on the high way from Kollegal to Bhavani, Kollegal to Madeswaranmalai supply drinking water not merely to those villages and their cattle but also to the way farers and tens of thousands of pilgrims to the Madeswaran hills. Crippling the Gundal as certainly disforestation for cultivation in the Gundal valley will bring about is bound to disable these tanks from rendering these valuable services. As we are penning these lines we see the wistful glances of the weary and thirsting glances of the very wearied pilgrims in their multitudes being vainly cast at the dried tank beds. This is the fruit of cultivation on hills in river valleys. Considerations of duty and humanity should drive the Government to the only course of putting an end once and for all to grant of lands in the Gundal valley and to seek methods - the speedier, the better - of removing the present coffee and cardamom plantations of Mr.Morris.

2. It will be recalled that the Hon'ble Minister visited the locality in person, saw things for himself, heard objections in person and was pleased to hold against any grant of lands in the Gundal valley. The present notification of sale is against the considered opinion and order of the popular government.

3. In the interests of justice and good

47

good government we feel constrained to issue a note of warning against trespassing on the acknowledged and ancient riparian rights of people. A more effective or speedier method of subverting the agricultural economy of a taluk and driving it into dire poverty could not have been thought of. It is bound to have among the people discontent of a character and magnitude that is hardly foreseeable and that naturally follows from a course which knocks off their bread from their mouths. We strongly urge that the proposed lease of lands in the Gundal valley for cultivation may be prohibited at once. The strength of a government lies in the happiness and contentment of the people.

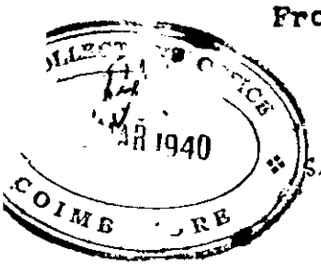
Yours truly,

K. Gopalaswamy

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.
Copy to the Adviser to H.E.The Governor of Madras.

K O L L E G A L,

18th June 1939.



From

Sri T.S.Gopalaswamy Ayyar,

President, Taluk Congress Committee,

Sri. S. Nanjundiah - Vice-president - Do -

K o l l e g a l,

Coimbatore District.

To

The Hon'ble The Minister for Agriculture & Forests,

Government of Madras, Fort.St.George,

M a d r a s.

S i r,

On invitation we inspected the Gundal valley with the Chief Conservator of Forests on 15-6-39. The Conservator and the District Forest Officer, Kollegal were present. Parts of the coffee and cardamom plantations were shown to us. The Main Gundal and the Kiru Gundal were also seen. In the cultivated virgin parts of the forest there is such luxuriant and thick growth that the Sun is not to be seen even at midday. It is all darkness. The cultivated area presents a different look. All undergrowth has been cleared. To regulate the density of ~~the~~ shade and to privide room for the coffee and cardamom plants, trees have been cut. The difference is marked. Due to exposure to the sun and air and with no undergrowth to retain the moisture or keep the soil cultivation ~~xkxm~~ has ~~been~~ considerably reduced the humidity in the soil and helped erosion. It is nothing unnatural in mountain slopes bare of vegetation. Mr.Wilson was at pains to prove the contrary. His arguments were however unconvincing. The virgin forest by the side gives the ~~light~~ clue to them. The seepage into the Gundal is much larger and steadier here than in the cultivated slopes. The pools, natural and artificial in the cultivated area and in that without it

it should bear out this observation. These coffee and cardamom plantations are in the Gundal valley, in the catchment area of the stream and have in no small measure reduced its supply. A podu which is a patch of some 5 acres or less in the reserved forests cultivated by the hill tribes - the Soligas - was shown to us to prove how when they are abandoned they develop grass - a combustible material - affording chances of forest fire leading to destruction of the neighbouring forests. Forest fires cannot be too strongly condemned and ought no doubt to be guarded against and prevented. The importance of grassy plots - store houses of cattle fodder - in the agricultural economy of an agricultural and cattle breeding taluk like Kollegal cannot, however, be lost sight of. The Chief Conservator told us that he had suggested the attachment of a condition to such podu cultivation requiring the Sholiga cultivator to see that trees are raised in the cultivated area before he abandons it. It is a reparative and protective method worth trial particularly when it costs nothing to Government. But when he attempts, as he did to make out a case thereby for granting for purposes of cultivation - it may be of fruit trees - an extent of what appeared to be some 400 acres of dense virgin forest in the catchment area of the Gundal, the main and the most ancient source of irrigation in Kollegal Taluk affecting the fortunes of over a dozen villages with a population of about twenty thousand, the matter assumes an aspect wholly different from what it appears to be on the surface and is fraught with grave consequences. Restoring the podus to their original sylvan richness is one thing and the granting for cultivation of large tracts of dense virgin forests in the catchment area of the main source of irrigation in the taluk quite another. Each conflicts with the other. After all from what we have been able to gather, the podus are scattered about numbering about

about a dozen or more with a total approximate extent of negligible dimensions. The Chief Conservator's suggestion to impose a condition to raise trees in the podus before relinquishment is one method of restoration. Lying as they do in the catchment area of the Gundal they should be restored to their original state. Another method would be to enclose the patches against human intrusion for a few years when nature will do the work of restoration. We are unable to believe that the existing Forest staff in Kollegal cannot do it as part of their current duties of forest protection. If a Department of Government cannot do this it is difficult to believe, as the Chief Conservator would have us do that Mr.Morris of the Attikan Estate - a private individual - can. After all the aggregate area of the podus is small/- and microscopically small in comparison with the area proposed to be granted to Mr.Morris for orange cultivation. Its restoration or protection cannot justify this large grant.

2. As stated earlier the coffee and cardamom cultivation ~~had~~ at the source and in the catchment area of the Gundal stream has converted it from a perennial into a ~~xxxxx~~ jungle stream appearing with the rain and disappearing with it. Its volume and constancy has been considerably cut down. with the result that with the growth of the Honnametti Estate the wet lands down in the plains of Kollegal irrigated by the Gundal have continued to suffer from growing shortage of water entailing heavy loss to the riot in crops and to the Government in large remissions of land revenue. Such failures and remissions as the revenue accounts from 1926 onwards should show have become an annual ~~xxxxxxxx~~ visitation. What huge losses of food crop like paddy year after year for over a decade mean has to be borne in mind whenever the question of the grant for cultivation of any extent, however small, of land in the catchment area of the Gundal comes up for

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for consider tion. Cultivation of any crop in a Shola like that in the Gundal valley is the clearence of large forests which constitute natures hidden reservoir of water to quicken the thirsting lands in the plains into smiling plenty. The clearence of such forests is nothing short of tarpedoeing the subsoil resorvoir out of existance starving the fields below. We are told that oranges are to be cultivated in those Sholas. It means the clearence of the undergrowth and of the huge trees to admit sunlight. We do not know whether any condition against cutting of trees for cardamom cultivation was inserted in the original grant leasing the land for such cultivation. We presume that such a speculation existed. However that may be, the fact is visible that any trees have been cut in those plantations resulting in shrinkage of subsoil water and consequently of seepage into the Gundal with the disastrous results referred to here above. This should warn one against any future grant in the Gundal basin. The wet ayacut in the Gundal is older than the British Government here and no rights to their prejudice can be created in favour of any individual. The argument of the Chief Conservator that it would yield a revenue of some twenty five thousand rupees lacks in force against the fact that the existing coffee and cardamom plantations have already reduced the irrigation capacity of the Gundal and the promised or expected income from orange cultivation is but a small fraction of the land revenue remission for failu r of paddy crop granted year after year from 1926 to date not to speak of the loss to the riot in food grains and fodder over a wide area. No cultivation of any kind in the Gundal basin adding as it certainly does to the reduction in the irrigable capacity of the Gundal can be permitted with any regard to the happiness and contentment of thousands of families dependent on lands irrigated by the Gundal. The plea of protection is anything but real. Public interests will

will be seen to demand the reduction, gradual if necessary, of the existing plantations and their shifting to regions beyond the Gundal catchment area or the catchment area of the Ududeri Halla which it is under the consideration of Government to harness for irrigation. Any experiments in fruit cultivation in high altitudes such as the oranges or of coffee or cardamoms may be tried in the Madeswaran or Honnachi hills in the taluk where it is presumed no irrigation interests are likely to be marred.

3. We feel it our duty to acknowledge the frankness with which the Chief Conservator discussed the subject with us and the pains he took to show us round. The firemar that he showed did not disclose any fire in the current year or in recent years. The one to which he drew our attention referred to fires some years back in the Aregalayam Forests which borders on the Mysore State - the Yelmadur Jaghir forest.- So far as can be seen, forest fires have been on the decline from year to year as the riot has begun to appreciate the value of forests. Fire protection cannot justify any garnt for cultivation of lands in the Gundal basin.

4. We remember the question of such a grant came up for consideration some years back and the grant was condemned for its assuredly deleterious effects on irrigation. We should not be surprised if the Forest officer who disapproved of the grant should be found to be, Mr.Wilson, now Chief Conservator. We believe there is a file on this matter in the office of the District Forest Officer, Kollegal. Those records should shed light on the question.

5. In the end we feel compelled in public interests to recommend against the grant to any one of any land in the Gundal basin for cultivation of any kind. Oranges are shrubs rather than trees and betwixt tree and

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and tree they need a larger interspace bare of vegetation than either coffee or cardomoms. They can therefore be no substitutes for the tall giants that stud the Sholas in the Gundal regeions. Human cultivation of any crop involves the destruction of all other vegetable life in the area and is characterised by limitations which nature knows not. The virgin forests in the Gundal basin are beyond human creation. They should be retained in the interests of the many families inhabiting the plains below and deriving nourishment from the fields fed by the Gundal who takes her birth in and runs through those forests. Human life should always weigh against revenue. The proposed grant to a private individual for cultivation would merely convert State property into a private one. That is the fact of the matter. Such conversion ought to be easily seen to be no wise a measure of which it can in any sense be predicated. That it is sylviculturally protective unless one is prepared to ignore the calamitously deleterious effects of the horti-agricultural activities of Mr.Morris.

(SD).T.S.Gopalaswamy Iyer
(SD).S.Nanjunda Iyer.

/ True Copy /

Communicated to the Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Fort St.George, Madras for favour of kind perusal.

T.Gopalaswamy

President,
Taluk Congress Committee,
Kollegal.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.
" " District Forest Officer, Kollegal.

Dem. Deptt

O.M. No. 9957-I/40-1 d. 2-5-40

Subject: Lease - Forest land - Kollegal Division - Cardamom Cultivation - Representation from ~~Ryots~~ & Taluk Congress Committee & others -

From the C.C.F. Ref. No. 6215/38-D1 d. 3.4.1940 & 23.4.40.

The C.C's attention is invited to O.M. No. 7107-I/40 d. 30.3.40 (Copy of which has been sent to him already) in which orders have been passed ~~on the representations made by the~~ on the representations from Ryots and the President of the Taluk Congress Committee Kollegal in regard to the lease of land for Cardamom Cultivation in the Kollegal Forest Division.

2. The proposals for fixing a premium referred to in the last para of the C.C's letter dated the 23rd April 1940 are awaited.

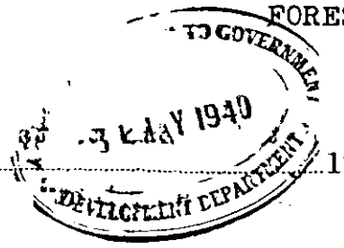
To.

The C.C.F.

Bd of Revenue (Agl. Dept.) Memo. No. 1869/40-1 d. 19.4.40 with a copy of the O.M. No. 7107-I/40-1 d. 30-3-40.

Have decided to proceed ~~the~~ matter.

FOREST **DEPARTMENT.**



Received ..... 19 *Registered* 5108-I 19

Subject.

Subject - Forests - Lease - Cardamom cultivation - Kollegal division.

ENCLOSURES.
No. .....
.....
Spare copies .....

Ref. No. 6215/38-D1.

Station Chepauk, Madras, *Dated the* 28th May 19 40.

From (Name) W.G. Dyson Esq., I.F.S.,

(Designation) Chief Conservator of Forests,

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Development Department.

Sir,

Ref. Development Memorandum No. 9957-I/40-1, dated the 2nd May 1940.

The Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle, reports that for good cardamom lands leased by the Forest Department in the Madura district premiums ranging from Rs. 40/- to Rs. 50/- per acre are realised. He suggests a premium of Rs. 45/- per acre for the proposed lease to Mr. Morris. In Madura however cardamom leases are a well-established feature, and there is competition.

2. It would perhaps be unfair in this case to take a figure so near the Madura maximum, and to do so might well kill the whole enterprise. I observe that in making his proposals in Ref. No. 6215/38-D1, dated the 21st November 1938 my predecessor had in mind a premium rate of Rs. 5/- to Rs. 10/- per acre; but it was hoped of course that the figure would settle itself by competitive bids in auction. A rate of premium has now to be fixed with practically no data as a guide. I suggest Rs. 30/- per acre. If Government agree I shall ascertain whether Mr. Morris is willing to lease the land on these terms.

30.5.40

For Chief Conservator of Forests.

K.P.N/29-5

Dem. Dept

Subject: Lease - land for Cardamom culti-
vation Billigiriraugans - Kollegal
Division

(S. No. 9957 - I/40) From the C. C. F. Ref. No. 628-5/
38 - D1 d. 3. 11. 1940.

Copies of the memorials from the President of the Taluk Congress Committee Kollegal Taluk protesting against the decision of Govt. permitting the lease of forest land for Cardamom Cultivation have already been received direct and the Govt. have already come to the Conclusion that no reconsideration of the decision already taken is called for. The President, Congress Committee, Kollegal has been informed accordingly and a copy of the memo has also been sent to the C. C. F. The C. C. F. has now submitted the originals of memorials submitted by the President of the Congress committee and other Ryots through the proper Channels with his remarks. Attention is invited to the Conservator's Report (Mr. W. G. Dyson, who has since taken charge as C. C. F.) in which he expresses

a doubt whether such a large area (400 acres) could be leased in this Shola forest for cardamom cultivation - the C.C.F. has commented on this in para 3 of his letter / pp 4-5 C F / end paragraph 4 also. CK

No action seems called for on these petitions and these papers may be lodged and stitched with G.O. No. 280 Dem. dt. 5.2.40 - the C.C's attention being drawn to the items at pages 27-29 of (F). / Yes. CK 4/4/40 (V)

DH 14/1 CK 15/4/40 17/4/40

KK 17/4/40

The Conservator's (Mr. Dyson) report on pp 7-8 CR and the CC/s remarks in paragraphs 3 & 4 of his letter pp 4-5 CR) are interesting No further action is required

CK 17/4/40

(RO 11681-I/40)
f/p 49-50 C.F.

(RO. 11687-I/40)

From the C.C.F. Ref. No. 6215/38.
Dt d. 23.4.1940.

From the Rd. of Rev. Roll. E. No. 1886
-I d 19.4.40.

J. A.S

The C.C.F. (Mr. Dyson) now reports that in response to the advertisement inviting applications for lease of land for Cardamom cultivation in the Kollegal division only one application from Mr. R.C. Morris has been received. He states that in this case it will be necessary to fix a premium to be paid by the lessee in addition to the rent, as auction is out of the question and that proposals on this point will be submitted if necessary on receipt of orders of Govt on the petitions submitted by the C.C.F. The Govt. have already passed orders on the Copy of the petitions received direct. The Board of Revenue has also submitted another set of three petitions received through the Collector of Coimbatore

With reference to the orders at para 1, a draft O.M. is submitted. A sentence is added to the draft on the point raised by the C.C.F.

para 1 of f/p 49 C.F.

para 2 of f/p 50 C.F

49-51 of (F)

f/p 1-85 C.F.

(1)

NH
30/4

30.4.40

30.4.40 (. 1.5.40

[Issued as O.M. No. 9957-I/40-Id. 2.5.40] | Pp 7 C.F.

From the C.C.F. Ref. No. | (C. No. 15108-F/40)
6215/38-D1 dt. 28.5.40 | Pp 89-90 C.F.

To A.S.

In Madura the right to lease forest land for Cardamom cultivation is sold in auction and the highest bidder granted the lease. The premium realised in that Division ranges from Rs 40 to Rs 50/- per ac... In Kollegal, even though the Dept. invited applications for lease of land for Cardamom cultivation only one application has been reported to have been received from Mr. T.C. Mathes. Now the question is what premium should be fixed in addition to the rent as auction is out of the question in this case The C.C.F. suggests Rs 30/- per acre For orders whether this suggestion will be accepted | para 1 cnp 89 C | para 1 cnp 49 C. | para 2 cnp 49 C

Subject to orders a draft order is submitted

for orders in his D.O. at (1)
C.C. has asked for urgent orders as Mr. Morris has to go at the end of June for Military Training & wants C. No. 7 15 these to have things settled before then
RS 16/6/40.

16/6/40

Issue at once and

Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests,

Camp Ootacamund dated the 30th May 1940.

15200-1
1.6.40

My dear Karunakara Menon,

I wrote officially a day or two ago about Mr. Morris's lease of land for cardamoms in Kollegal division, suggesting for Government's approval a premium rate of Rs. 30/- per acre.

I have just had a letter from Mr. Morris saying that he has been called up for Army service and has to be off towards the end of June.

He is very anxious to get things settled before he goes. As there is such a very good reason for urgency I should be grateful if I could receive the decision of Government at the earliest possible moment.

Yours sincerely,

W. Gordon

Rao Bahadur Sri
C.P. Karunakara Menon,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

D.O.No.6215-38-Dl.

Office of the Chief
Conservator of Forests, Chepauk, Madras,
dated the 31st May 1940.

15201-I
1.6.40

Dear Mr.Ramaswami Ayyangar,

Reference: This office letter Reference No. 6215-38-Dl, dated 28th May 1940 regarding the lease of forest land in Kollegal to Mr.Morris for cardamom cultivation.

Mr.Morris states that he has been called up for Military Service in June and that he is anxious to clear the undergrowth and start work in the land proposed to be leased to him before he leaves.

2. The Chief Conservator is writing a Demi official to the Development Secretary requesting urgent orders. Will you please, therefore, forward the papers to him at the earliest possible moment?

Yours sincerely,

31.5.40

Sri Rao Sahib
R.Ramaswami Ayyangar, B.A.,
Assistant Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

C.F.16.

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL.

Ten. Deptt.

	Date.	Initials.
When received for fair copying		
When copied		
When examined		
When signed		
When despatched.		

SUBJECT:— Leases - Forest - Cardamom Cultivation - Kottegal division - Premium - fixation - orders passed

READ AGAIN G.O. 280 Dev., dated 5. 2. 1940. (V)

" " " 19

READ *ALSO*:—

C. No. 9957-I/40 From the C.C.F. Ref., No. 6215/38-D1 dated 3.4.1940. — pp 1-6 C.F.

" " 11681-I/40 " C.C.F. Ref " 6215/38-D1 " 23.4.1940. — pp 49-50 C.F.

C. " No. 15108-I/40 " Dev. Deptt. O.M. " 9957-I/40-21 " 2.5.1940. — p 87 C.F.

C.C.F. Ref. 6215/38-D1 28.5.40 — pp 89-90 C.F.

Order ~~Resolution~~ Ms. No. (J) 8 1304, dated 4-6-40. 19

pp 89-90 C.F.

p 90 C.F.

In the Circumstances reported ~~by~~ in his letter No. 6215/D1 d. 28.5.40 from the ~~C.C.F.~~ Govt. fix ~~Suggestion to fix a premium~~ as the premium ~~Rs~~ Rs 30/- per acre of land to be leased for cardamom cultivation ~~is approved~~

RK 1/6/40

NL 1/6

Sd/- 1/6/40

Sd/-

Fees 7/6.

7/6

Rev. Dept.

O.M.No. 13759-F/40-4 6-6-40

Subject: Leases - Forest - Cardamom Cultivation - Kollegal division - Premium - Fixation - orders passed.

Ref. G.O.No. 1(S) & Rev. d. 4.6.40.

For

G.O.M.S.No. (S) & Rev. d. 4.6.40

Read

G.O.M.S.No. 1304 (S-S) Rev. d. 4.6.40

To.

The Dy. C. F. Kollegal

Dy. C. F. Kollegal

Dpr's No. KW 8/6

Date

DN 5/6.

5/6/40

Note After issue this may be stitched with the above Rev. G.O.

DN 6/6.

6/6/40